

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 30-33 and 63-70 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.¹

By way of summary, the Office Action presented the following issues: Claims 63-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent App. Publ'n No. 2004/0160630 to Iriyama et al. (hereinafter "Iriyama") in view of U.S. Patent App. Publ'n No. 2003/0011633 to Conley et al. (hereinafter "Conley"); and Claims 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Iriyama in view of Conley and U.S. Patent App. Publ'n No. 2004/0239975 to Kawaura et al. (hereinafter "Kawaura").

In light of the several grounds of rejection on the merits, independent Claims 63, 66-67, and 70 have been amended to clarify the claimed inventions and to thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied references.

Amended Claim 63 is directed to a system including, in part, an image forming apparatus and an external apparatus,

the image forming apparatus configured to include

at least one of hardware resources of a scanner
and a plotter;

a request part configured to send a request of a
screen for using an application, which is implemented in the
external apparatus and executes an image forming process
using the at least one hardware resource; . . . and

an execution part configured to execute the
image forming process in response to [an] execution instruction
. . . , by using the at least one hardware resource,

the external processing apparatus configured to include
the application including . . .

¹ The amendments to independent Claims 63, 66-67, and 70 find support at least in Figures 26 and 58 and in their accompanying text in the specification.

an execution instruction sending part configured
to send the execution instruction for executing the image
forming process using the at least one hardware resource to the
image forming apparatus

Iriyama and Conley do not disclose or suggest those features.

Iriyama concerns a server that includes an application similar to the present invention. Different from the present invention, the Iriyama server sends a list of functions available at the server to a digital copying machine, and the server performs an image forming process in response to an operation conducted at the digital copying machine.

On the other hand, in the present invention, applications implemented in the server (e.g., “external apparatus”) are regarded as applications which utilize the multi-functional apparatus (e.g., “image forming apparatus”). The image forming process is conducted by a cooperation of the multi-functional apparatus and the external apparatus.

The Office Action relied upon Conley merely for describing a user interface.² Conley does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Iriyama with respect to amended Claim 63.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent Claim 63 and all associated dependent claims patentably distinguish over any reasonable combination of Iriyama and Conley.

For at least analogous reasons, independent Claims 66-67 and 70 and all associated dependent claims also distinguish over any reasonable combination of Iriyama and Conley.

In addition, Kawaura does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Iriyama and Conley with respect to Claim 63. Accordingly, the rejection of dependent Claims 30-33 is considered moot.

² Office Action at 4.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted the present application is patentably distinguished over the applied references. The application is therefore in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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